

DIARY 2 (PART C)

ADDENDUM

**"Battle of Gettysburg"
[strategic analysis]**

"The Battle of Germantown"
on
1st - 2nd - 3rd July.
1863

All conceding the splendid strategy of the confederates in trifling the enemy in their designs upon his country's capital; in transferring the theater of war to their own soil, and, in again, withdrawing his army, in the face of overwhelming numbers, and a crop a mile & rapid rise, greatly swollen by the recent rains, and moving safely around the walls of his own

capital again; the query is often made - why, in consideration of all these facts, and the heroic & unwarlike form esp exhibited by our troops - why - you me, supposed to have the opportunity of selecting my own own battle-ground - faced to attack the en-

pling the enemy in
despair upon his Country's
Capital; in transferring
the theater of war to their
own soil; and, in again
withdrawing his Army, in
the face of overwhelming
numbers, and across a
wide & rapid river, finally
swallowed by the recent rains;
and, during safety, a-
round the walls of his own

Capital again; the que-
ry is often made - why, in
consideration of all these
facts, and the heroic &
unrivalled spirit ex-
hibited by our troops - why
none, supposed to have
the opportunity of select-
ing our own battle-ground,
failed to attack the en-
emy on ground of his
own choosing - and why
our success was not more
decided? To these queries
I answer -

1st -

That Gen Lee never
anticipated a battle at
Gettysburg - or that any
fight at all would oc-
cur at the time - that he
relied upon his Cavalry

to keep him informed of
the enemy's movements, so
that he could, in time -
collect his scattered col-
umns, which were march-
ing on different roads -
and, when concentrated -
to dispose them, as to
compel Meade to fight
him on terms of his
own choosing - that the
General failed to in-
form him, in time - of
the close proximity of
the enemy. (See his offi-
cial report on the sub-
ject, in which, with his
characteristic delicacy,
he states this fact -
and that, consequently,
the opposing forces met

at a point, where, the
enemy had avoided
himself of the advantage
of ground, and Gen Lee
was reciprocally obliged to bring
up his columns to the
support of those already
engaged (see date) and
attack the enemy where
he found them.

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own choosing - that the
Cavalry failed to in-
form him, in time, of
the close proximity of
the enemy. (See his offi-
cial report on the sub-
ject, in which, with his
characteristic delivery,
he states this fact -
and that, consequently,
the opposing forces met

at a point, where, the
enemy had avoided
himself of the vantag^e
ground, and Gen Lee
was incapable to bring
up his columns to the
support of those already
engaged (1st day) and
avoids the enemy when
he found them.

2nd -

That when me,
and other re-enforcements,
"Ewell's and Longstreet's
Corps", arrived on the
battle-field in the eve-
ning (10 o'clock) of the
1st July, the 1st and 11th
Corps of the enemy were

badly whip-peed, sustain-ing a loss of, at least, six thousand, 6,000, persons, and a heavy loss of killed and wounded so that they had not, up to this time, planted a single piece of Artillery in position! for they had not the time or chance to do it) in fortified, in the least, the heights, upon which they were drawn.

That Gen. Doubtless early on this Evening, as soon as the shades of night compassed the combatants to cease, for awhile, their works of destruction & death, strongly advocated, in

a general council of War, an immediate and general advance & assault upon the heights; that had his proposition been adopted by the gallant old gray-haired Chieftain the already dispirited enemy would have been driven from his

in position! & had
not the time or chance to
with our friends, in the
least, the heights, upon
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That Genl. Doubtless early
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confederates to cease,
for awhile, their works
of destruction & death,
strongly advocated, in

a general council of
War, an immediate
and general advance
& assault upon the
heights; that had his
proposition been adopt-
ed by the gallant old
gray-haired Chieftain.
the already dispirited
enemy would have
been driven from his
positions (of course
with some loss to us,
but insignificant in
comparison with
what we subsequently
sustained in our re-
peated charges and
assaults); and we
would have thereby
obtained possession
of the key to the Enemys

whole position, "Gentry Hill", and covered the entire aspect of the game - that, infatuated by us, however, Early (the old tree-day) was overruled, for the alleged reason that, the men were worn out and needed rest - that the fox, whipped and dispirited as he was, saw and took advantage of the garrison, and as it turned afterwards, full mistake that we had made occupied every second of the night in felling trees, constructing breastworks, block-

ing the roads - planting battery, disposing traps, &c - that General made during the night of the 1st July - as can been seen by his official report of the engagement, received Seventy five thousand \$ in re-enforcements - consisting of all three arms of the service, Cavalry, Artillery and Ar-

that the foe, whipped
and dispirited as
he was, saw and took
advantage of the gully,
and as it proved after-
wards, fatal mistake
that we had made -
occupied every sec-
ond of the night in
falling trees, construct-
ing breastworks, block-

ing the road - plant-
ing bushes, dipping
traps, & - that gen-
tlemen during the
night of the 1st July -
as can be seen by
his official report
of the engagement,
received Seventy five
thousand 75000 re-
inforcements - consis-
ting of all three arms
of the service, Cavalry,
Infantry and Ar-
tillery - and that last-
ly, when the attack
was eventually made
on the Evening of the
second of July, the
whole range of hills,
naturally very strong,
and capable of easy

defence, was thoroughly
fortified - from the
rich artillery of the
heavily calibed - and
defended by enormous
numbers, so as to be
impregnable to an
assault.

3rd.

That our ar-
tillery of ^{the} ~~the~~ opened
on the morning of the
2nd and continued,
without one moment's
ceasaln till the occu-
pancy of the 3rd, was
most probably, un-

precedented in the
annals of war. That
the slaughter of the En-
emy, crowded upon
the heights - was tempestuous
and beyond all de-
scription, one hundred
and sixty guns play-
ing upon "Cemeling Hill"
alone. That it was here,
that the principal
part of his admi-

Sid.

That our ad-
vance of night opened
on the morning of the
3rd and continued,
without one moment's
respite till the occu-
pation of the 3rd, was,
most probably, un-

precedented in the
annals of war - that
the slaughter of the En-
emy, committed upon
the heights - was terrible
and beyond all de-
scription, one hundred
and sixty guns play-
ing upon Cemetery Hill
alone - that it was here,
that the principal
portion of his admitted
fearful mortality list
was made up - that
his own surgeons who
came into our lines,
by permission, to as-
sist in the care of
his wounded, repre-
sented to us that it
was one frightful
slaughter - that

it was universally be-
lieved by their own, as
well as our officers - that
could we have sustained
such a deadly and
dangerous fire a short
time longer, the enemy
must have abandoned
his position. But such
a fire, necessarily re-
quiring a vast expen-
diture of our ammu-
nition, which we, al-
ready, nearly exhausted -
we were compelled to
economize our use of
it, until we could
receive more from our
distant base of sup-
plies. This was fa-
cilitated to us, and pro-
vided

on our side. The cam-
paign which was kept
up by both armies on
the 2nd & 3rd of July,
is, I believe, unequalled
in the annals of
warfare. Judging from
the number of large
guns which we had
in our Army, and
making liberal allow-
ance for the increased

a fire, necessitating
quitting a task before
dilution of our commu-
nition, which we, al-
ready, nearly exhausted.
We were compelled to
& economize in use of
it, until no longer
could more gunpowder
distant time of exp-
plosives. This was fa-
vorable to us, and proved

our ruin. The cannon-
ade which was kept
up by both armies on
the 2nd & 3rd of July,
is, I believe, unparalleled
in the annals of
warfare. Judging from
the number of large
guns which we had
in our Army, and
making liberal allow-
ance for the increased
numbers of the foe, we
came to the conclusion
that at least, five
hundred and sev-
enty five, 575, large
guns were, at the
same time, vomiting
forth their contents
of fire and death.
By day the heavens

smoke hung with black
and "Wafts with dark-
ness," and by night,
the sulphurous fire,
as it issued from the
mouths of the death-
dealing missils, lit
up the surrounding air
with a lurid glow,
and cast a most
unearthly light upon
the scene of carnage
& death around.
And the very earth
tumbl'd - and quak'd
at its very foundations,
as if the first of an
angry and incensed
God rest'd upon it.

Such are the affec-
tions of an impartial
if a participant in
the strife can be im-
partial, observer of
the campaign, from
its incipient stages
& its closing scenes,
on a point, which has
been, and will be, the

inevitably light upon
the scene of carnage
& death around &
Rock the very earth
trembles - and quakes
etc. and is cracked
to its very foundation,
as if the effort of an
angry and enraged
Gods restid upon it

Such are the reflec-
tions of an impartial
or participant in
the strife can be im-
partial, observer of
the campaign from
its incipient stages
& its closing scenes,
on a point, which has
been, and will be, the
subject of a great con-
trariety of views -
and which will fur-
nish material to the
future historians of
both sections ^{upon which} to follow
widely divergent paths.
The facts, which ad-
mit of no dispute -
whichever, speak for
themselves —

That General York being besieged in the outer lines which defended the Capitol of his own Country - became, as if by magic, the messenger of shot of his adversary's - Captain, by the most marvellous movement, the impetuous garrison at "Chester" and "Harper's Ferry", crossed the waters of the Potomac, before the idea of invasion was even entertained by the enemy - filled with despair, the country, whom he had outwitted, and with

consternation and alarm, for the safety of their homes, the fanatical and deluded people of the North, who had, waited so long with prospective delight the promised "fall of Richmond" - Relieved Virginia, at an

unit, consisting at New
Hampshire and "Harpey's-
Ferry", opposite the
mouth of the Potomac,
before the idea of in-
vasion was ever con-
templated by the En-
emy. Filled with
shame, the country,
whom he had out-
killed, and with

consternation and
alarm, for the safety
of their homes, the fa-
miliar and delin-
quent people of the
North, who had, agit-
ed so long with pros-
pective delight the
promised "fall of
Richmond". Retur-
ned Virginia, at an
opportune season, of
the heavy burden of
war. Subsisted his
Army, in two months,
in the Environs County-
and on his return,
brought in his train,
immense quantities
of stores of all kinds
which he had taken

from the enemy - thought
that enemy, in strong-
holds of his own re-
sisting, inflicted a
loss of, at least, fu-
lly thousand, 40,000,
men - (and many
put it at a figure
considerably higher)
with a loss to himself
of not more than one
third that number -
Lewinsky retraced his
steps - Repeatedly of-
fered battle to the
Vainglorious foe -
And re-crossed the
Potomac, so greatly
swollen by the late
rains as to be ab-

most impassable - in
the face of the enemy,
who had been too
badly crippled to
pursue, and who
was compelled to
seek safety in flight,
in the indecision
Campaign of the fal-
lowing autumn -
These undisputed, &
indisputable facts,

with a loss of not more than one
thousand that number
casually retained his
ships - Helplessly he
frogs back to the
vain gloom of a
and re-crosses the
Potomac, so greatly
swollen by the late
rains as to be ab-

most impassable - in
the face of the enemy,
who had been too
badly crippled to
pursue, and who
was compelled to
seek safety in flight
in the indecisive
campaign of the fal-
lowing autumn -
These undisputed &
indisputable facts,
amply suffice (with-
out calling to our
aid, other, and still
more overwhelming
proofs) to place Ross
E. Lee in the first
rank of the world's
greatest chieftains -
and to crown the

gallant men who were
the executors of his
conceptions, with an-
dying and imperish-
able renown.

I will only say in
conclusion, and there-
fore officially leave
this subject - that it
was only by the fortunate
concurrence of the
most unfortunate
circumstances on
that eventful fatal
day (1st of July 1776) that
independence - that
great and precious
blessing of heaven to the
human race, was
snatched from our
grasp.